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OLC 72-1106

25 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate  
Appropriations Committee, Re Legislation  
Concerning Executive Dining Rooms

1. Today I talked with Bill Woodruff about the provision in the Supplemental Appropriations bill (H.R. 17034) requiring reports to Congress on the total amount of appropriated funds used for the support of executive dining rooms or similar facilities during the fiscal year ending 30 June 1973.

2. Mr. Woodruff said the stated purpose of this provision, which was proposed by Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R., Maine), was to determine the extent to which appropriated funds are used to support dining facilities where the attendance is limited on the basis of grade or rank. He said the real purpose is to determine the extent to which appropriated funds are used to permit certain Government officials to purchase their meals at a substantial saving over prices for comparable service on the commercial market.

3. According to Mr. Woodruff the principal concern is with the operation of small Secretary's dining rooms in the Pentagon with large staffs for a very small number of people. In talking about the Agency's executive dining room, Mr. Woodruff said he did not feel that a facility like ours which was available to hundreds of people and which was operated by a comparatively small staff would be a matter of concern.

4. I asked Mr. Woodruff how he anticipated Agency reports being submitted. He said he thought they ought to be submitted to the President of the Senate. When I queried him on the advisability of establishing a precedent for reporting to the Congress at large on Agency funds, he agreed this was a report that should be made to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and put in his (Woodruff's) hands.

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4. I told Mr. Woodruff that we would probably want to check out the format of our report with him before it was finalized and he said that would be fine.



Deputy Legislative Counsel

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